

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 20-36 remain pending in this application. Claims 18-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 20-36 have been added.

35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims in the outstanding Office Action because of the recitation of "online slips", stating that there was no support in the specification. New claims 34 and 35 also recite "online slips". The Examiner's attention is directed, by way of example only, to page 40, line 17 of the specification.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linehan (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,578). These rejections are traversed as follows.

Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of new claims 20-36. These claims correspond to claims allowed in a related European application. It is submitted that these claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone with any questions.

Appl. No. 09/857,043
Amendment dated May 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

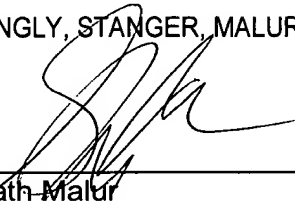
TMI-103

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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